

APPENDIX H

Newspaper Article

Storm damaged park's earthworks

Civil War era cannon unscathed

BY JON POPE

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PETERSBURG — The earthworks created by Union soldiers at Battery 13 in the Petersburg National Battlefield were designed to save lives.

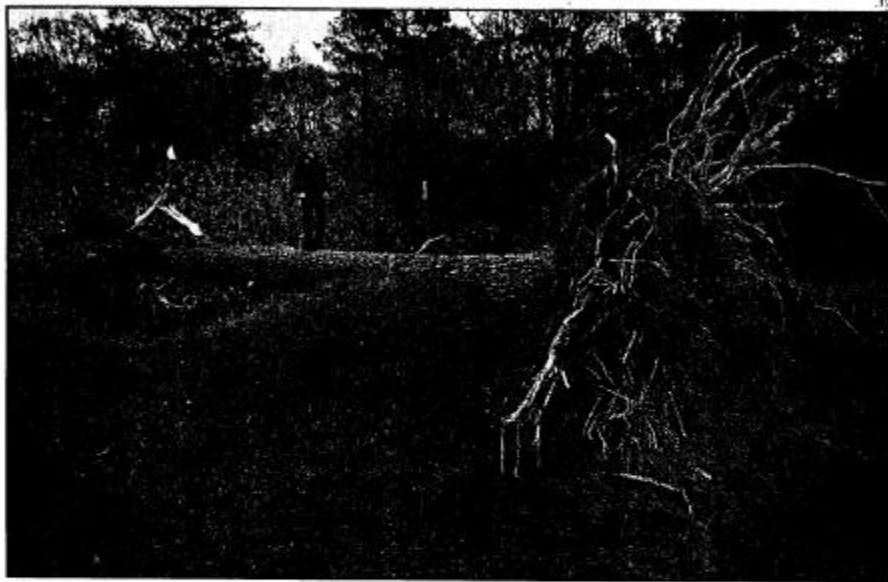
On Thursday afternoon, the earthen fortification saved a Civil War era cannon from being smashed by a massive poplar.

High winds from a severe thunderstorm felled trees in several areas of the 1,500-acre park. The earthworks at Battery 13 sustained the most damage, said Dave Shockley, resource manager for the national battlefield.

About a dozen pine, poplar and oak at Battery 13 were uprooted between 2:30 and 3 p.m. Thursday. Several of the hardwoods felled during the storm were trees that had taken root on the earthworks in the 130-plus years since they were used.

Shockley said he was on a conference call with National Park Service officials in Washington and Philadelphia discussing a project to remove the trees from Battery 13 and other earthworks at the park when the destruction occurred.

He said trees have been removed from earthworks at other sites in the park in an effort to prevent what happened at Battery 13. "This is a graphic illustration of what will happen" if the trees aren't removed from the earthworks, Shockley said



ALEXA WELCH EDWARDS/TIMES-DISPATCH

FELLED. Dave Shockley stands on a tree uprooted at the battlefield's Battery 13 by Thursday's storms. The trees grew up from the earthworks in the more than 130 years since they were built by Union troops.

yesterday while surveying the damage.

He said officials will try to determine next week how to repair the earthworks. A crane will be used to remove the trees.

The cannon that was saved by the earthworks was one of three in Battery 13. The barrels of the cannons are original, but the bases are concrete restorations, Shockley said. The felled poplar had a nick in its

bark where it apparently grazed a cannon wheel, but yesterday it was resting about four inches above the cannon.

Battery 13 is a few hundred yards from the site of the Battle of the Crater, Petersburg's most famous Civil War engagement. Union troops fired on Confederates from Battery 13 during the Battle of the Crater, Shockley said.

Mike Rusnak, a meteorologist

from the National Weather Service in Wakefield, said he hadn't seen the damage, but "we're figuring that was straight-line wind damage from a severe thunderstorm."

He described "straight-line wind damage" as a downburst of stroddg winds from a thunderstorm not related to a tornado. As it hits the ground, it expands, generating wind speeds that could exceed 100 mph, Rusnak said.